

REMARKS

BY

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AT THE

SECOND ANNUAL MEMORIAL CEREMONY

CIA HEADQUARTERS

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We are here today -- at this second memorial ceremony -- to honor our colleagues who have lost their lives while serving their country. We are here to pay tribute to their great courage and their sacrifice and to recall, in a private ceremony, our own loss.

Those of us in this room are not merely observers at this ceremony, and we are doing more than noting stars on a wall or names in a book. Many are remembering men and women who were friends and colleagues. Men and women of intelligence, accomplishment, and patriotism.

And -- in remembering them -- we are remembering and reaffirming the importance of the mission for which they gave their lives. Those of us in this mission we call intelligence are not called upon to serve in safe havens. Instead, many are asked to collect intelligence in areas that are distant and hostile, often at considerable risk to themselves and their families. This risk is understood and accepted because all of us believe that without good intelligence -- the kind that can only be developed by human means -- our nation would be in jeopardy.

Earlier this month, I joined others in a ceremony at Arlington Cemetery commemorating William Buckley. President Reagan sent a letter to the Buckley family, saying of Bill: "He knew what dangers awaited him, not because of what he was as an individual, but because of what he stood for and the campaigns of fear and terror he stood against. He faced those dangers not for personal advantage or public acclaim; indeed, he faced them knowing that his work would effectively preclude the kinds of recognition most often accorded a person of his ability."

President Reagan's words apply as well to all the men and women we honor today. Whether they served as Agency officers or employees of Air America, each contributed skill, energy, and loyalty in advancing the cause of freedom and opposing campaigns of fear and terror. And like Bill Buckley, they knew they would not receive the public recognition that their acts of bravery merited.

It therefore remains for us to recognize those acts of heroism, privately offered, for the security of our nation. We alone know the importance of the contribution these men and women made. And in honoring them, we share in the legacy of courage, devotion, and selflessness that is their enduring gift to their country.